Steps to reduce poverty

4590. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to reduce poverty in the country since the inception of the present Government so far,

(b) whether Government have undertaken any study in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof: and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Government has adopted a three pronged strategy for reducing poverty (i) acceleration of economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive; (ii) human and social development through provision of basic minimum services; and (iii) targeted anti poverty programmes.

There are several steps being taken by Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation to reduce the number of people living below poverty line in rural and urban areas. For rural areas the programmes are (i) Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (ii) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (iii) Indira Awaas Yojana and (iv) National Food for Work Programme. For urban areas the programmes is Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana. In the recent budget presented on 28-02-05 it was announced that the coverage of Antyodaya Anna Yojana will be increased from 2.0 crore (BPL) families to 2.5 crore families in 2005. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill has also been tabled in Parliament on 21.12.2004.

(b) to (d) No, Sir.

Ratio of people below poverty line

†4591. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that national ratio of people living below poverty line has declined to 22 percent;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so,the criterion fixed for ascertaining people living below poverty line and its position and assessment State wise; and

(c) the target fixed for bringing down the number of people living below the poverty line to zero?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Planning Commission estimates poverty at national and state level from the large sample surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The latest such survey was conducted in 1999-2000 (NSS 55th Round). The poverty ratios estimated from the last three large sample survey data for the years 1987-88, 1999-94 and 1999-2000 are as follows:

Percentage of Poor

Year	Poverty Ration (%)		
	Rural	Urban	Total
1987-88	39.1	38.2	38.9
1993-94	37.3	32.4	36.0
1999-2000	27.1	23.6	26.1

(b) The Planning Commission has adopted per capita consumption expenditure needed to attain a minimum amount of calorie intake out of food consumption along with a minimum amount of non-food expenditure in order to meet the requirements of clothing, shelter, transport etc. as the criterion to determine the persons living below the poverty line. The Planning Commission estimates poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey on Household Consumer Expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. According to the latest such survey conducted in 1999-2000 (NSS 55th Round) the persons with monthly per capita expenditure below the prescribed limit of Rs. 327.56 in rural areas and Rs.454.11 in urban areas are considered to be living below the poverty line in 1999-2000. The state-wise position on percentage and no. of population living below poverty line in the country for both rural and urban areas in 1999-2000 is given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) As such there is no target fixed for bringing down the number of people living below the poverty lines to Zero. However, the Tenth Five Year Plan period (2002-07) for the first time has set a target for reduction of

poverty by 5 percentage points by 2007 and by 15 percentage points by 2012.

Statement

Number of Percentage of Population Below Poverty Line by States-1999-2000

No.	States/UT's	Rural		Urban		Combined	
		No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	58.13	11.05	60.88	26.63	119.01	15.77
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.80	40.04	0.18	7.47	3.98	33.47
3.	Assam	92.17	40.04	2.38	7.47	94.55	36.09
4.	Bihar	376.51	44.30	49.13	32.91	425.64	42.60
5.	Goa	0.11	1.35	0.59	7.52	0.70	4.40
6.	Gujarat	39 80	13 17	28.09	15.59	67.89	14.07
7.	Haryana	11.94	8.27	5.39	9.99	17.34	8.74
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4 84	7.94	0.29	4.63	5.12	7.63
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.97	3.97	0.49	1.98	3.46	3.48
10.	Karnataka	59.91	17.38	44.49	25.25	104.40	20.04
11.	Kerala	20.97	9.38	20.07	20.27	41.04	12.72
12.	Madhya Pradesh	217.32	37.06	81.22	38.44	298.54	37.43
13.	Maharashtra	125 12	23.72	102.87	26.81	227.99	25.02
14.	Manipur	6.53	40 04	0.66	7.47	7.19	28.54
15.	Meghalaya	7.89	40 04	0 34	7.47	8.23	33.87
16.	Mizoram	1.40	40.04	0.45	7.47	1.85	19.47
17.	Nagaland	5.21	40.04	0.28	7.47	5.49	32.67
18.	Orissa	143.69	48.01	25.40	42.83	169.09	47.15
19.	Punjab	10.20	6 35	4.29	5.75	14.49	6.16
20.	Rajasthan	55.06	13.74	26.78	19.85	81.83	15.28
21.	Sikkim	2.00	40.04	0.04	7.47	2.05	36.55
22.	Tamil Nadu	80.51	20.55	49.97	22.11	130.48	21.12
23.	Tripura	12.53	40.04	0.49	7.47	13.02	34.44
24.	Uttar Pradesh	412.01	31.22	117.88	30.89	529.89	31.15
25.	West Bengal	180.11	31.85	33.38	14.86	213.49	27.02
26.	A & N Island	0.58	20.55	0.24	22.11	0.82	20.99
27.	Chandigarh	0.06	5.75	0.45	5.75	0.51	5.75
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.30	17.57	0.03	13.52	0.33	17.14
29.	Daman & Diu	0.01	1.35	0.05	7.52	0.06	4.44
30.	Delhi	0.07	0.40	11.42	9.42	11.49	8.23
31.	Lakshadweep	0.03	9.38	0.08	20.27	0.11	15.60
32.	Pondicherry	0.64	20.55	1.77	22.11	2.41	21.67
	ALL INDIA	1932.43	27.09	670.07	23.62	2602.50	26.10

Note

1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
2. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
3. Poverty Line of Himachal Pradesh and expenditure distribution of Jammu & Kashmir is used to estimate poverty ratio of Jammu & Kashmir.
4. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A & N Island.
5. Urban Poverty ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.
6. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
7. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.
8. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.
9. Urban Poverty Ratio of Rajasthan may be treated as tentative.

Population living in poverty

†4592. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the all out efforts made by Government, a large number of the population is living in acute poverty;

(b) the details of the problems Government are facing in changing this situation;

(c) whether Government have conducted any study to ascertain as to how much money common man requires to run the family per month; and

(d) the number of such persons who happen to be even devoid of the minimum income?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.